THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 12th September 1946.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Questions held over from 11th September 1946.

Civil section at the Hydro-Electric department at Mettur.

* 67 *Q.*—SRI P. R. K. SARMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the value of the work done by the Civil section of the Hydro-Electric department at Mettur annually;

(*b*) how much of it has been done departmentally and how much through the agency of contractors during the last five years since 1941;

(*c*) whether the workers of the Civil section are constantly laid off without any relief;

(*d*) whether any representations have been received by the Hon. Minister for Labour appealing for all works being carried out departmentally; and

(*e*) what the Hon. Minister has done or proposes to do in the matter?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" (*a*) The total value of the work done by the Civil section at Mettur Dam is not readily available. It is roughly estimated to be around Rs. 60,000 per year on the average.

" (*b*) The figures for the last five years are tabulated below. While the contract amount is the overall expenditure on both labour and materials, the departmental expenditure noted therein is for the labour only :—

	By contract.	By department (labour only).
	RS.	RS.
1941	Not readily available.	5,643
1942	48,946	6,725
1943	32,334	7,911
1944	22,436	15,357
1945	17,373	24,162
1946 (up to July 1946) ..	18,462	21,153
Total ..	1,39,551	80,951

" (*c*) The labour strength employed each time depended largely on the works taken up. At no time were all the workers stopped. Even during the worst season in 1943, when for a very short period there was not full work for all the employees, a turn system was adopted.

" (*d*) Yes.

" (*e*) The matter is under consideration."

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SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I ask the Hon. the Minister whether he is justified in characterising the workers as seasonal workers when the work they are doing is of a permanent and continuous character?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" So far as the work is concerned, it may be seasonal. In spite of it, the department is having a great deal of work at one period and the work will be less at another period."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I ask the Hon. the Minister if he would make some arrangements to treat them as permanent staff and admit them to some kind of service conditions?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" I am not in a position to say categorically anything about it, but I am trying to see whether they cannot be absorbed in the department as far as possible."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" I put it to the Hon. Minister that their employment is of a continuous and permanent character, even according to the figures furnished in the statement by the Hon. Minister. May I ask whether he would give an assurance that the workers will be treated as permanent staff?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" I take the information from the hon. Member. I shall enquire into it."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" In my question I asked for the amount of work done on contract and also departmentally. Figures were furnished only in regard to work done departmentally and not for work done on contract. May I know when those figures will be finished?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" Certainly I shall try to get those figures."

Inspecting staff of Industrial schools.

* 68 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Industrial schools, both Government and aided which have to be inspected by the Inspector of Industrial Schools;

(b) whether, in view of the increasing number of Industrial schools seeking aid, there is a proposal to increase the inspecting staff; and

(c) whether the question of creating a separate inspecting staff for the Industrial schools, with a Chief Inspector and Regional Inspectors under him has been considered at any time?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" (a) The number of Government and aided schools inclusive of Certified and Borstal schools, to be inspected by the Inspector of Industrial Schools is 61. In addition, there are 30 Textile Schools which are inspected by the Principal of the Textile Institute.